

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to analyze the feasibility of providing public facilities for skating and specialized biking activities. Skating/biking activities include: skateboarding, roller skating, rollerblading (in-line skates,) and BMX biking. For ease of reference, most communities refer to their facility as a skatepark; a few do not allow biking.

A typical skatepark combines jumps, ramps, banked walls, a concrete slab, half-pipes, quarter-pipes, railings and sometimes a skatable bowl or pool. For a more complete discussion of skatepark design and equipment, see the next section entitled **"Typical Skatepark Styles and Features."** Most skateparks are unsupervised "skate at your own risk" facilities. Two communities were found to have supervised skateparks. One, Boulder, Colorado, is fully programmed; the other, Temecula, California, is supervised primarily to control access and to provide first aid in the event of an accident. Both these parks have an entry fee.

In order to report on the feasibility of providing a skatepark the following steps were taken:

1. Ten jurisdictions were directly surveyed and five of those were visited. In addition, one California jurisdiction shared the results of their research on six northern California communities. (See Appendix I.)
2. Informal, ad hoc discussions were held with skaters, both in Albuquerque and in the jurisdictions visited.
3. Data with regard to injuries related to skateboarding was obtained from the U.S. Consumer Product Association. (See Appendix II.)
4. The Legal Department was asked to comment on liability issues associated with providing one or more public skatepark(s). (See Appendix III.)
5. CIP, Design and Development section was asked to identify suitable locations for a skatepark. (See Appendix IV.)

Based on this research, it is the conclusion of staff that a skatepark is not only feasible, it is desirable. Pending approval by the Administration, \$250 thousand has been requested in the '97 Decade Plan for design and construction of a skatepark. Decisions will be required about the number of parks, their location(s), and specific features and equipment that should be provided, but there is every reason to believe that, if a skatepark is built, it will be flooded with users.